This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A floor mat laid in a small animal rearing cage for housing and rearing a small animal, comprising,

a solid and reusable sheet having a recoverable deodorization capacity when washed alone or with alkaline or acidic substances; the sheet further having randomly formed, meandering and overlapped folds of various shapes and sizes, a plurality of rigids and grooves are formed on the folds to make walls for assuring a sleeping floor, excretion place, and birth and breeding place for the small animal, and having a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of the small animal and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of the small animal, where the flexibility and size are such that the sheet is capable of being seamlessly folded onto itself, even after being laid down in a form where the sheet is randomly folded onto itself so as to form a fold large enough for the small animal to hide at least half of its body; and

wherein the sheet is formed of an improved cellulose fabric comprising cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed in a shape of a sheet and wherein the sheet has a temperature holding property sufficient to keep the body temperature of the small animal.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet has a water absorption property and deodorization property.

4. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

5. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

6. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1 wherein improved cellulose fabric contains 40 to 140 millimole carboxyl groups per 100g of dry fabric.

7. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet has a water absorption and deodorization property.

8. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 1, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

9. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 7, wherein the improved

cellulose fabric contains 40 to 140 millimole carboxyl groups per 100g of dry fabric.

10. (Previously Presented) A small animal rearing cage for housing and rearing a small animal, said small animal rearing cage comprising:

a rearing box having a floor and a wall provided at a circumference of the floor; the rearing box for restraining the small animal therein; and

a floor mat formed with a solid and reusable sheet having a recoverable deodorization capacity when washed alone or with alkaline or acidic substances; the sheet further having randomly formed, meandering and overlapped folds of various shapes and sizes, a plurality of rigids and grooves formed on the folds to make walls for assuring a sleeping floor, excretion place, and birth and breeding place for the small animal, and having a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of the small animal and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of the small animal, where the flexibility and size are such that the sheet is capable of being seamlessly folded onto itself, even after being laid down in a form where the sheet is randomly folded onto itself so as to form a fold large enough for the small animal to hide at least half of its body, wherein the sheet is formed of an improved cellulose fabric comprising cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto, wherein the cellulose having the carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed in the shape of a sheet and wherein the sheet has a temperature holding property sufficient to keep the body temperature of the small animal.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

13. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the improved cellulose fabric contains 40 to 140 millimole carboxyl groups per 100 grams of dry fabric.

14. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the sheet has a water absorption property.

17. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

18. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 16, wherein the improved cellulose fabric contains 40 to 140 millimole carboxyl groups per 100 grams of dry fabric.

19. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein said floor mat is larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

20-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A small animal rearing cage according to Claim 10, wherein the sheet further includes a water absorption property.

27. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 9, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

28. (Previously Presented) The floor mat according to Claim 9, wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

29. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 18, wherein the cellulose having carboxyl groups chemically bound thereto is formed with a graft polymerization method.

30. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 18, wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

31. (Previously Presented) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 18, wherein

said floor mat is larger in size than the floor area of the rearing cage.